

Understanding the U.S. through Film



Project Title	Understanding the U.S. through Film
Project Summary	See how foreigners perceive the U.S. through the lens of film... Popular and documentary American films are a useful way to introduce foreign audiences to U.S. culture, values, and foreign policy topics. Research and curate films on topics like women's empowerment, LGBTQ, immigrant experience, etc.
Country	United States
Agency	Department of State
DoS Office	IIP/PL/AS
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	2

Project Description

If you are a student of film (classics, popular, documentary, and beyond) or are just a film buff, this is an opportunity to put your knowledge to work. American Spaces, places where foreign audiences come to learn more about the United States through lectures, discussion clubs, and other activities, often offer film shows as a way to create awareness or initiate a change. The intern will research and develop curated lists of films and videos around specific policy topics, giving consideration to potential cultural and thematic sensitivities.

You will help the staff of American Spaces to select appropriate films around particular themes and develop discussion questions and short scripts to get those discussions started. Educational and short films are especially good for conversation clubs, where the screening and discussion often take place in the same setting. Of course, "Hollywood" feature films are a popular draw, and frequently touch on policy topics useful in sparking a meaningful cross-cultural dialogue.

Another intriguing aspect of film selection relates to intellectual property rights, and permissions to screen the films. Public television distributors like PBS offer some of their films with AV (educational) rights that simplify permissions. Acquisition of rights is also an opportunity to promote intellectual property rights (IPR) globally.

Learn more about, and help, the American Spaces program to choose and discuss great American films with foreign audiences, and to share American greatness through mutual understanding of the human story.

Desired Skills Interests

Additional Information

To learn more about American Spaces and the public diplomacy goals they serve, please see the 2016 Annual Report for American Spaces: <https://americanspaces.state.gov/home/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Office-of-American-Spaces-FINAL.pdf>

Language Requirements

None